

REMARKS

This response places the above-referenced patent application in better condition for allowance, and therefore, is a proper response after Final pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 24 of Tripard (U.S. Patent No. 6,277,671).


A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, the rejection is rendered moot.

No other rejections are presented against the pending claims, claims 1-10, and therefore, claims 1-10 are in allowable form.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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